



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY  
MIKE STRAIN DVM  
COMMISSIONER



BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 25, 2008

10:00 A.M.

LSU Ag Center - Scott Center  
212 Macon Ridge Rd.  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

Minutes

**Agricultural &  
Environmental  
Sciences**

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**Agro-Consumer  
Services**

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**Animal Health  
Services**

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**Forestry**

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**Management  
& Finance**

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**Marketing**

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**Soil & Water  
Conservation**

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LA 70821  
(225) 922-1269  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Strain at 10:15 A.M.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM; Dr. Roger Leonard, representing Chancellor Richardson; Danny Logan; Jack Dailey; Boyd Holley; George Lacour and Dan Turner

Members absent: none

A quorum was present.

Others present: Travis Walker, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission alternate member; Marvin Montgomery, LDAF Counsel; Dr. Ralph Bagwell, LSU Ag Center, Dr. Bob Hutchinson, LSU Ag Center; LDAF employees Todd Parker, Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, Becky Wilkerson, Martin Close, Kurt Moreau, John Dumas, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Rick Sibley, Eva Wales, L.R. Beville, Jimmy Payne and Marshall McFarland; Ken Pierce, USDA, APHIS-PPQ; Richard Myers, Cheminova Inc.; Jess Barr, Louisiana Cotton Producers and Brian Breaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Holley made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2007 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey and passed unanimously.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to elect Mr. Danny Logan as Chairman of the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** Mr. Holley made a motion to close the nominations and elect Mr. Logan by acclamation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey and passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Mr. Lacour to elect Mr. Jack Dailey as Vice-chairman of the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Holley. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Mr. Holley to close the nominations and elect Mr. Dailey by acclamation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour and passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to appoint Mr. Marc Bordelon as Director of the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Holley and passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bordelon reviewed the Arkansas proposal discussed at the last meeting. He presented this for discussion, noting that we made good progress in this area last year. Discussion followed, with Dr. Bagwell stating that data indicates we are not sharing weevils with Arkansas. Further discussion followed.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to reject the proposal at this time. This motion was seconded by Mr. Holley and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bordelon will draft a letter to Arkansas stating that we are rejecting their proposal at this time.

## **REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER STRAIN**

Dr. Strain thanked Commission members for serving and expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to work with them in the future. He reported on the following issues:

- 1) There is no money left this fiscal year for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEP); however he is working, with support of our Legislators, to secure funding through June, and is seeking additional money for next year.
- 2) Legislation is being filed to change some aspects of the Boll Weevil Law.
- 3) He emphasized the Department's commitment to the BWEP.
- 4) We will be updating the Department's fleet system.
- 5) We will be joining the Interstate Pest Compact, paid with general funds, not BWEP funds.
- 6) We will implement yearly evaluations of all programs.

## **UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Bordelon gave a brief report on the 2007 crop year including assessment collection and stalk destruction as follows: assessments collected - \$1,982,679, all producers paid; one producer was issued a Warning Letter for stalk destruction, no producers called to a hearing.

Mr. Bordelon stated that it may be necessary to hire trappers on contract instead of as LDAF employees. Discussion followed, including input from Mr. Barr regarding potential problems. Commissioner Strain stated that we will resolve this matter so trappers will be LDAF employees. Mr. Bordelon presented the 2008 Operational Plan (copy on file). Commission members voiced agreement that this should be coordinated closely with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Bordelon called attention to Quality Control Forms (copies on file) located in the handout and emphasized that forms are kept on record in each office and are available for review. He reported that the aerial contract for the Jonesville Unit was rebid because the contractor had pilot problems last year. The Monroe and Oak Grove units were combined into two units and rebid in order to consolidate acres. Discussion followed regarding the performance of aerial contractors, with Commission members stressing the importance of contractors' strict adherence to bid standards. Mr. Montgomery stated that the contract will be reviewed regarding penalties for failure to meet performance standards. Craig Roussel recommended scheduling a meeting with all contractors each year before applications begin, at which time the contract is reviewed and contractors informed that legal action may be taken if performance does not meet contract standards.

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Bagwell stated that the TAC met on November 21, 2007. He reported that the Committee reaffirmed recommendations from December 2002 and December 2005 (copies on file). He then

presented new recommendations from the TAC adopted at the last meeting as follows:

- 1) Malathion use rate of 16 oz. per acre for aerial application; can discuss guidelines for reducing rates at specific times during the season.
- 2) Utilize LSU evaluation of airplanes used in the Program; check planes regularly for consistency.
- 3) Better communication between the Program and producers, consultants and the TAC.
- 4) Address hot spots in Franklin and Catahoula parishes by identifying and isolating problem fields, limiting access of Program personnel in these fields and dedicating an aircraft to this area.

Commissioner Strain asked that the reasons for the recommendations and the additional cost involved be submitted in order to evaluate the impact on available funds.

### **USDA REPORT**

Mr. Pierce reported the following: the Cooperative Agreement has been finalized, allowing funds to be received as in-kind services; eradication is complete in Oklahoma; national supply depots are being set up for post eradication.

### **FARM BUREAU OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Breaux submitted a report from the Oversight Committee (copy on file) including the following issues presented by committee members and random polling of producers: support for Commissioner Strain and appreciation for his letter and his commitment to the program; budget concerns; address weevil hot spots; follow advice of TAC; increase pay to keep good trappers; opposition to Arkansas proposal; continue publishing Boll Weevil newsletter.

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

George Lacour asked that an accurate budget be drafted, including TAC recommendations.

Marc Bordelon stated that Malathion will cost \$26.53/gallon this year, up from \$22.55 in 2007.

Commissioner Strain requested a revised budget as soon as possible.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.